Paris Reexamined

In my painting of the Eiffel Tower and the Venetian carnival mask, I was portraying my dream. I was a mere two years old at the time of my visit to Paris. I could not remember my actual visit but I remembered my dream with crystal clarity. The most prominent part of my dream of the Eiffel Tower was the snake. This is because the snake neither scared me nor upset me, rather it intrigued me.

The mask in my painting was meant to symbolize the apparent perfection of Europe. The Eiffel Tower, contrasting t the mask, symbolized the imperfection of Europe, mainly due to the snake. The significance of my painting is to show that not everything is as it seems. At first glance, Paris seems so precise. However, when one looks deeper, they realize that Paris faces the same problems that we do. The portal is meant to emphasize the contrasting relationship between the black and white stage and the watercolor stage of the painting. The mask, in all its glory, is meant to symbolize perfection. The Eiffel Tower, with the snake, is meant to symbolize imperfection.

The colors of the portal are the complete opposite to what people imagine, glowing lights with a starry night sky in the black darkness. However, I chose to make the sky turquoise because the color emphasized the seriousness of my dream by allowing the Eiffel Tower to be prominent. But, it also showed portrayed the care freeness of childhood, of not having to worry about technicalities or anything important, due to the general upbeat feel of the color. The color of the Eiffel Tower contrasts the sky and emphasizes the impossibility of my dream. The snake is meant to symbolize the danger and imperfection of Paris. The mask’s background is black to make the mask appear larger and more important than it truly is. The eye sockets and the mouth being black show the sense of mystery surrounding the mask. They display the mask as a looming, threatening figure with enormous beauty yet immense power. The Eiffel Tower itself is painted a pinkish red color to contrast with the turquoise sky and to bring the image of the Eiffel Tower in front of the sky, almost as if on top of the sky. Additionally, the moon being lower than the top of the Eiffel Tower adds to the sense of importance and surrealism in the painting. This would be impossible due to the way the picture is drawn.

The contrasting image of the Eiffel Tower to the Venetian mask also has a contrasting image within itself. The Eiffel Tower, in a way symbolizes perfection, too. However, by adding the snake, there is a sense of mystery and the snake is meant to symbolize the ultimate imperfection. Going back in time to Adam and Eve, the snake was meant to represent the devil, the source of all evil in the planet. By adding the snake, I am showing that things are not always as they seem. Perfect Paris is no longer perfect. But I take the snake’s symbol a step lower than evil and bring it to imperfection. The dominant message that I wished to portray in my painting is that everything is not always as it seems.